



# **Massachusetts National Guard**

**Public Affairs**

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## **Media Advisory**

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**Dec. 01, 2006**

### ***Finance Soldiers Return from Kosovo***

NEWTON, Mass. – Twenty-one Massachusetts Army National Guard soldiers will be returning to the West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington Street, at midnight tonight after serving a year in Kosovo.

Members of the 685th Finance Detachment deployed to Kosovo in December 2005 and served as part of Kosovo Force Seven, a NATO-led international force responsible for establishing and maintaining security in Kosovo. NATO has been rotating peacekeeping forces through Kosovo since June 1999, under a United Nations mandate.

In Kosovo, the 685th conducted various pay missions and financial disbursement.

"The unit played a critical role in a theater that hasn't gotten much attention, but is very important," said Brig. Gen. Oliver J. Mason Jr., The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard. "Without units like the 685th, troops wouldn't get paid and there wouldn't be funds to purchase local goods and services -- it's an important mission. I'm proud of these men and women and I'm grateful to have them home safe."

**MEDIA MUST REGISTER FOR THE EVENT BY CALLING THE ABOVE NUMBER**

**EVENT: Welcome Home Ceremony, 685th Finance Detachment from West Newton**

**PLACE: National Guard Armory, 1137 Washington Street, West Newton, Mass.**

**DATE: Midnight, Friday, Dec. 01, 2006.**

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**Public Affairs Office**

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